

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or Revocation) **ORDER OF**
of the Teaching Certification) **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**
of Terry M. Cumbee)
Certificate # 214611)

The South Carolina State Board of Education (Board) considered this matter on Tuesday, December 7, 2004. On October 26, 2004, the State Department of Education sent a notice letter of the possible suspension or revocation of Terry M. Cumbee's teaching certificate. In an effort to resolve this matter without a hearing, Mr. Cumbee has agreed to the following terms: (1) the voluntary surrender of his teaching certificate; (2) his teaching certificate will become invalid immediately upon the approval by the Board of the voluntary surrender; (3) he may re-apply for a South Carolina teaching certificate after three years from the date of this order by written request to the Department's Office of Teacher Certification; and (4) should he re-apply, he must undergo a character fitness review by the State Board. After considering the evidence presented, the Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of Mr. Cumbee's teaching certificate # 214611, effective December 7, 2004, upon the conditions outlined above.

Terry M.
Cumbee
#214611

Initials

Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Cumbee holds a valid South Carolina teaching certificate with over two years of teaching experience. Mr. Cumbee held a contract with Lexington/Richland School District Five and was assigned at Irmo Middle School for the 2004-2005 school year. Mr. Cumbee resigned on August 9, 2004, after admitting he sent an inappropriate email to a student under the name of a current Lexington/Richland School District Five Board member.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (1990). Just cause

includes "unprofessional conduct", S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Regulation Ann. 43-58 (1992). The Board finds that the evidence presented supports the decision to accept the voluntary surrender of Mr. Cumbee's teaching certificate # 214611, effective December 7, 2004. At the end of three years from the date of this Order, Mr. Cumbee may re-apply for a teaching certificate upon the conditions set forth above.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones
Dr. Mary E. Jones,
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 7, 2004

I, Terry M. Cumbee, SC Teaching Certificate # 214611, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Tuesday, December 7, for approval.

/S/ Terry M. Cumbee
Terry M. Cumbee

11/28/04
Date